



S.L.C.

Pending

AMENDMENT NO. _____

Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate that the United States faces continuing threats from terrorist groups operating in Syria and Afghanistan and that the precipitous withdrawal of United States forces from either country could put at risk hard-won gains and United States national security.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—116th Cong., 1st Sess.

AMENDMENT N^o 0065To 1 By McConnell

To: _____

S. 1

5

Page(s)

Re

GPO: 2018 33-682 (mac)

and

ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by _____

Viz:

- 1 At the appropriate place, insert the following:
- 2 SEC. ____ SENSE OF SENATE ON WITHDRAWALS OF
- 3 UNITED STATES FORCES FROM SYRIA AND
- 4 AFGHANISTAN.
- 5 (a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following
- 6 findings:

GRAHAM
BLUNT
BARR
POMNEY
ERNST
INHOFE
RUBIO
SASSE
FISCHER
GRASSLEY
JOHNSON

SHELBY
TILLIS

assist-
on of
ordan
whole-
r pur-

1 (1) The foreign terrorist organization al Qaeda,
2 responsible for the attacks of September 11, 2001,
3 maintains a presence in Afghanistan.

4 (2) The Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham, bet-
5 ter known by its acronym ISIS, flourished in the
6 chaos unleashed by the civil war in Syria and at one
7 point controlled extensive territory in Iraq and
8 Syria.

9 (3) Al Qaeda, ISIS, and their affiliates have
10 murdered thousands of innocent civilians.

11 (4) Al Qaeda, ISIS, and their affiliates have
12 proven resilient and have regrouped when the United
13 States and its partners have withdrawn from the
14 fight against them.

15 (b) SENSE OF SENATE.—The Senate—

16 (1) acknowledges that the United States mili-
17 tary and our partners have made significant
18 progress in the campaign against al Qaeda and the
19 Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham (ISIS), and hon-
20 ors the contributions and sacrifice of the members of
21 the United States Armed Forces who have served on
22 the front lines of this fight;

23 (2) recognizes the continuing threat to the
24 homeland and our allies posed by al Qaeda and

1 ISIS, which maintain an ability to operate in Syria
2 and Afghanistan;

3 (3) expresses concern that Iran has supported
4 the Taliban in Afghanistan and Hizballah and the
5 Assad regime in Syria, and has sought to frustrate
6 diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts in these two
7 countries;

8 (4) recognizes the positive role the United
9 States and its partners have played in Syria and Af-
10 ghanistan fighting terrorist groups, countering Ira-
11 nian aggression, deterring the further use of chem-
12 ical weapons, and protecting human rights;

13 (5) warns that a precipitous withdrawal of
14 United States forces from the on-going fight against
15 these groups, without effective, countervailing efforts
16 to secure gains in Syria and Afghanistan, could
17 allow terrorists to regroup, destabilize critical re-
18 gions, and create vacuums that could be filled by
19 Iran or Russia, to the detriment of United States in-
20 terests and those of our allies;

21 (6) recognizes that al Qaeda and ISIS pose a
22 global threat, which merits increased international
23 contributions to the counterterrorism, diplomatic,
24 and stabilization efforts underway in Syria and Af-
25 ghanistan;

1 (7) recognizes that diplomatic efforts to secure
2 peaceful, negotiated solutions to the conflicts in
3 Syria and Afghanistan are necessary to long-term
4 stability and counterterrorism efforts in the Middle
5 East and South Asia;

6 (8) acknowledges the progress made by Special
7 Representative Khalilzad in his efforts to promote
8 reconciliation in Afghanistan;

9 (9) calls upon the Administration to conduct a
10 thorough review of the military and diplomatic strat-
11 egies in Syria and Afghanistan, including an assess-
12 ment of the risk that withdrawal from those coun-
13 tries could strengthen the power and influence of
14 Russia and Iran in the Middle East and South Asia
15 and undermine diplomatic efforts toward negotiated,
16 peaceful solutions;

17 (10) requests that the Administration, as part
18 of this review, solicit the views of Israel, our regional
19 partners, and other key troop-contributing nations in
20 the fight against al Qaeda and ISIS;

21 (11) reiterates support for international diplo-
22 matic efforts to facilitate peaceful, negotiated resolu-
23 tions to the on-going conflicts in Syria and Afghani-
24 stan on terms that respect the rights of innocent ci-
25 vilians and deny safe havens to terrorists;

1 (12) calls upon the Administration to pursue a
2 strategy that sets the conditions for the long-term
3 defeat of al Qaeda and ISIS, as well as the protec-
4 tion of regional partners and allies, while ensuring
5 that Iran cannot dominate the region or threaten
6 Israel;

7 (13) encourages close collaboration between the
8 Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch to en-
9 sure continuing strong, bipartisan support for
10 United States military operations in Syria and Af-
11 ghanistan; and

12 (14) calls upon the Administration to certify
13 that conditions have been met for the enduring de-
14 feat of al Qaeda and ISIS before initiating any sig-
15 nificant withdrawal of United States forces from
16 Syria or Afghanistan.
